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EP filed 12/9/2008

Attorney's Docket No.: 16113-1101001 / GP-167-00-US

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Serial No. : 10/749,440 Examiner : Etienne Pierre Leroux
Filed : December 31, 2003 Conf. No. : 8962
Title : METHODS AND SYSTEMS FOR ASSISTED NETWORK BROWSING
"LINKTIPS"

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INTERVIEW SUMMARY
AND
SUPPLEMENTAL AMENDMENT IN REPLY TO
NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION MAILED JULY 11, 2008

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method comprising:
 - displaying, to a user, a first web document received from a search engine, the first web document comprising a search engine result set;
 - receiving in a client application in a client device an interest signal generated in response to a user action, the interest signal indicating to the client application that the user has an interest in a hyperlink displayed as part of the search engine result set in the first web document, the hyperlink referencing a second web document;
 - automatically generating in the client application in the client device a request signal in response to the interest signal and sending the request signal to the search engine to request a text extract and implicitly derived past-user information, the text extract comprising text data previously extracted from the second web document and stored separately from the second web document, and the implicitly derived past-user information rating multiple previous viewers' interest in the second web document, the previous viewers being other than the user, and the interest of the previous viewers being implicitly derived using data at the search engine which logs measures of the previous viewers' interaction with the second web document, the measures including the previous viewers' linger time on the second web document, the previous viewers' quantity of repeat visits to the second web document, a quantity of repeat queries initiated by the previous viewers which led to the second web document, or a quantity of click-throughs by the previous viewers on the second web document;
 - receiving the text extract and the implicitly derived past-user information in the client device in response to the request signal; and
 - displaying the text extract and the implicitly derived past-user information to the user in association with the first web document, in response to the interest signal.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising logging the interest signal.

3. – 9. (Cancelled)

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
receiving information indicating a genre of the second web document in response to the request signal; and
displaying the genre to the user.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
receiving information indicating a relationship of the first and second web documents in response to the request signal; and
displaying the relationship to the user.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
receiving information indicating a query that led the previous viewers to the second web document in response to the request signal; and
displaying the query to the user.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
receiving information indicating a comparison between content from the first web document and content from the second web document in response to the request signal; and
displaying the comparison to the user.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
receiving a cached representation of a previously-available second web document in response to the request signal; and
displaying the cached representation to the user.
17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the interest signal comprises an indication of a cursor hovering over the hyperlink.
18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the interest signal comprises an indication of a right-click while a cursor is hovering over the hyperlink.
19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein displaying the text extract and the implicitly derived past-user information to the user in association with the first web document comprises displaying the text extract and the implicitly derived past-user information in an overlay over the first web document.
20. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein the overlay comprises a tooltip.
21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein displaying the text extract and the implicitly derived past-user information to the user in association with the first web document comprises displaying the text extract information and the implicitly derived past-user information in a status bar.
22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein displaying the text extract and the implicitly derived past-user information to the user in association with the first web document comprises displaying the text extract and the implicitly derived past-user information in a right-click menu.
23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein displaying the text extract and the implicitly derived past-user information to the user in association with the first web

document comprises displaying the text extract and the implicitly derived past-user information in a pop-up window.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein displaying the text extract and the implicitly derived past-user information to the user in association with the first web document comprises displaying the text extract and the implicitly derived past-user information in a persistent window.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein displaying the text extract and the implicitly derived past-user information to the user in association with the first web document comprises displaying the text extract and the implicitly derived past-user information with the first web document.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein displaying the text extract and the implicitly derived past-user information to the user in association with the first web document comprises audibly outputting the text extract and the implicitly derived past-user information.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein displaying the text extract and the implicitly derived past-user information to the user in association with the first web document comprises outputting the text extract and the implicitly derived past-user information through a haptic device.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein displaying the text extract and the implicitly derived past-user information to the user in association with the first web document comprises displaying a hyperlink referencing a third web document, the third web document comprising the text extract and the implicitly derived past-user information.

29. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method comprising:
- transmitting a first web document from a search engine to a client application, the first web document comprising a search engine result set;
 - receiving in the search engine from the client application a request signal requesting a text extract and implicitly derived past-user information, the text extract comprising text data previously extracted from a second web document referenced by a hyperlink displayed as part of the search engine result set in the first web document and stored separately from the second web document, the implicitly derived past-user information rating a previous viewers' interest in the second web document, the previous viewers being other than the user, and the request signal being automatically generated based on receiving, in the client application, an interest signal generated in response to a user action, the interest signal indicating to the client application that the user has an interest in the hyperlink;
 - implicitly deriving in the search engine the interest of the previous viewers using data which logs measures of the previous viewers' interaction with the second web document, the measures including the previous viewers' linger time on the second web document, the previous viewers' quantity of repeat visits to the second web document, a quantity of repeat queries initiated by the previous viewers which led to the second web document, or a quantity of click-throughs by the previous viewers on the second web document;
 - retrieving the text extract in the search engine in response to the request signal; and
 - generating in the search engine an information signal comprising the retrieved text extract and the implicitly derived past-user information, the information signal configured to cause the text extract and the implicitly derived past-user information to be output in association with the first web document.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 29, further comprising logging the request.

31. – 37. (Cancelled)

38. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 29, wherein the information signal further comprises information indicating a genre of the second web document.

39. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 29, wherein the information signal comprises information indicating a relationship of the first and second web documents.

40. (Canceled)

41. (Canceled)

42. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 29, wherein the information signal comprises information indicating a query that led the previous viewers to the second web document.

43. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 29, wherein the information signal comprises information indicating a comparison between content from the first web document and content from the second web document.

44. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 29, wherein the information signal comprises a cached representation of a previously-available second web document.

45. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 29, wherein causing the text extract and the implicitly derived past-user information to be output in association with the first web document comprises causing the text extract and the implicitly derived past-user information to be displayed in an overlay.

46. (Original) The method of claim 45, wherein the overlay comprises a tooltip.

47. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 29, wherein causing the text extract and the implicitly derived past-user information to be output in association with the first web document

comprises causing the text extract and the implicitly derived past-user information to be displayed in a status bar.

48. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 29, wherein causing the text extract and the implicitly derived past-user information to be output in association with the first web document comprises causing the text extract and the implicitly derived past-user information to be displayed in a right-click menu.

49. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 29, wherein causing the text extract and the implicitly derived past-user information to be output in association with the first web document comprises causing the text extract and the implicitly derived past-user information to be displayed in a pop-up window.

50. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 29, wherein causing the text extract and the implicitly derived past-user information to be output in association with the first web document comprises causing the text extract and the implicitly derived past-user information to be displayed in a persistent window.

51. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 29, wherein causing the text extract and the implicitly derived past-user information to be output in association with the first web document comprises causing the text extract and the implicitly derived past-user information to be displayed with the first web document.

52. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 29, wherein causing the text extract and the implicitly derived past-user information to be output in association with the first web document comprises causing the text extract and the implicitly derived past-user information to be audibly output.

53. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 29, wherein causing the text extract and the implicitly derived past-user information to be output in association with the first web document

comprises causing the text extract and the implicitly derived past-user information to be output through a haptic device.

54. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 29, wherein causing the text extract and the implicitly derived past-user information to be output in association with the first web document comprises causing a hyperlink referencing a third web document to be output, the third web document comprising the text extract and the implicitly derived past-user information.

55. – 61. (Cancelled)

62. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the text data is sufficient to approximate usefulness of all content in the second web document.

63. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 29, wherein the text data is sufficient to approximate usefulness of all content in the second web document.

64. – 67. (Cancelled)

68. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising generating the text extract at the search engine based on crawling a web site storing the second web document.

69. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the client application further comprises a browser-enabled JavaScript application.

70. (Cancelled)

71. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable ~~medium~~ storage device encoded with a computer program, the computer program comprising instructions that, when executed, operate to cause a computer to perform operations comprising:

displaying, to a user, a first web document received from a search engine, the first web document comprising a search engine result set;

receiving in a client application an interest signal generated in response to a user action, the interest signal indicating to the client application that the user has an interest in a hyperlink displayed as part of the search engine result set in the first web document, the hyperlink referencing a second web document;

automatically generating in the client application a request signal in response to the interest signal and sending the request signal to the search engine to request a text extract and implicitly derived past-user information, the text extract comprising text data previously extracted from the second web document and stored separately from the second web document, and the implicitly derived past-user information rating a previous viewers' interest in the second web document, the previous viewers being other than the user, and the interest of the previous viewers being implicitly derived using data at the search engine which logs measures of the previous viewers' interaction with the second web document, the measures including the previous viewers' linger time on the second web document, the previous viewers' quantity of repeat visits to the second web document, a quantity of repeat queries initiated by the previous viewers which led to the second web document, or a quantity of click-throughs by the previous viewers on the second web document;

receiving the text extract and the implicitly derived past-user information in response to the request signal; and

displaying the text extract and the implicitly derived past-user information to the user in association with the first web document, in response to the interest signal.

72. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable ~~medium~~ storage device encoded with a computer program, the computer program comprising instructions that, when executed, operate to cause a computer to perform operations comprising:

transmitting a first web document to a client application, the first web document comprising a search engine result set;

receiving from the client application a request signal requesting a text extract and implicitly derived past-user information, the text extract comprising text data previously

extracted from a second web document referenced by a hyperlink displayed as part of the search engine result set in the first web document and stored separately from the second web document, the implicitly derived past-user information rating a previous viewers' interest in the second web document, the previous viewers being other than the user, and the request signal being automatically generated based on receiving, in the client application, an interest signal generated in response to a user action, the interest signal indicating to the client application that the user has an interest in the hyperlink;

implicitly deriving the interest of the previous viewers using data which logs measures of the previous viewers' interaction with the second web document, the measures including the previous viewers' linger time on the second web document, the previous viewers' quantity of repeat visits to the second web document, a quantity of repeat queries initiated by the previous viewers which led to the second web document, or a quantity of click-throughs by the previous viewers on the second web document;

retrieving the text extract in response to the request signal; and

generating an information signal comprising the retrieved text extract and the implicitly derived past-user information, the information signal configured to cause the text extract and the implicitly derived past-user information to be output in association with the first web document.